



# NEW BEDFORD

Bristol County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The City of New Bedford is seen by its residents as a wonderfully diverse and culturally rich community with a proud past, present and future. The whaling capital of the world in the 18th century, the city has evolved to become the home of many major industries, which manufacture products used throughout the United States and abroad. The city prides itself on its working waterfront and historic district, as well as its expanding retail and tourist trades.

While it is a city of approximately 100,000 people, New Bedford maintains a close-knit community feel. Recently named one of the top ten "Green Cities" in the country, New Bedford residents feel that its parks are breathtaking and its beaches gorgeous. Enhanced with festivals and celebrations throughout the year, New Bedford is a wonderful place to visit. The unbeatable quality of life relished by residents makes New Bedford an even better place to live and raise a family.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Dartmouth on the west, Freetown on the north, Acushnet on the east, and Buzzards Bay on the south. New Bedford is 54 miles south of Boston; 33 miles southeast of Providence, Rhode Island; and about 208 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 24.04 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 20.14 sq. miles

**Population:** 99,922

**Density:** 4,961 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(New Bedford Station)

Normal temperature in January.....30.6°F  
Normal temperature in July.....73.5°F  
Normal annual precipitation.....47.3"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

New Bedford North, New Bedford South

## Regional Planning Agency

Southeastern Regional Planning and  
Economic Development District

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

New Bedford



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 979-1400

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Mayor-Council

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1787

As a city: 1847

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%
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Total Registered 38,025

Democrats 23,913 62.9 % Republicans 3,021 7.9 % Other parties 0 0.0 % Unenrolled Voters 11,091 29.2 %

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: New Bedford city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	93,768	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	93,768	100.0
Male.....	44,173	47.1	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	9,576	10.2
Female.....	49,595	52.9	Mexican.....	322	0.3
Under 5 years.....	6,272	6.7	Puerto Rican.....	6,657	7.1
5 to 9 years.....	6,695	7.1	Cuban.....	59	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	6,578	7.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	2,538	2.7
15 to 19 years.....	6,187	6.6	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	84,192	89.8
20 to 24 years.....	6,491	6.9	White alone.....	70,520	75.2
25 to 34 years.....	13,455	14.3	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	13,541	14.4	Total population.....	93,768	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	11,191	11.9	In households.....	91,782	97.9
55 to 59 years.....	4,196	4.5	Householder.....	38,178	40.7
60 to 64 years.....	3,514	3.7	Spouse.....	15,099	16.1
65 to 74 years.....	7,205	7.7	Child.....	28,759	30.7
75 to 84 years.....	6,204	6.6	Own child under 18 years.....	21,076	22.5
85 years and over.....	2,299	2.4	Other relatives.....	4,579	4.9
Median age (years).....	35.9	(X)	Under 18 years.....	1,635	1.7
18 years and over.....	70,441	75.1	Nonrelatives.....	5,167	5.5
Male.....	32,233	34.4	Unmarried partner.....	2,645	2.8
Female.....	38,208	40.7	In group quarters.....	1,986	2.1
21 years and over.....	66,779	71.2	Institutionalized population.....	1,507	1.6
62 years and over.....	17,761	18.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	479	0.5
65 years and over.....	15,648	16.7	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	5,864	6.3	Total households.....	38,178	100.0
Female.....	9,784	10.4	Family households (families).....	24,083	63.1
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	11,897	31.2
One race.....	88,214	94.1	Married-couple family.....	15,099	39.5
White.....	73,950	78.9	With own children under 18 years.....	6,286	16.5
Black or African American.....	4,112	4.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	7,209	18.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	579	0.6	With own children under 18 years.....	4,701	12.3
Asian.....	614	0.7	Nonfamily households.....	14,095	36.9
Asian Indian.....	68	0.1	Householder living alone.....	12,057	31.6
Chinese.....	187	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	5,195	13.6
Filipino.....	66	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	13,036	34.1
Japanese.....	27	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	11,060	29.0
Korean.....	71	0.1	Average household size.....	2.40	(X)
Vietnamese.....	138	0.1	Average family size.....	3.01	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	57	0.1	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	44	-	Total housing units.....	41,511	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	7	-	Occupied housing units.....	38,178	92.0
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	22	-	Vacant housing units.....	3,333	8.0
Samoa.....	8	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	7	-	occasional use.....	108	0.3
Some other race.....	8,915	9.5	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.9	(X)
Two or more races.....	5,554	5.9	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	6.9	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	38,178	100.0
White.....	77,695	82.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	16,711	43.8
Black or African American.....	6,382	6.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	21,467	56.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	1,288	1.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.60	(X)
Asian.....	850	0.9	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.25	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	282	0.3			
Some other race.....	13,143	14.0			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

## **Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State	904
Conventional Federal	1,650

## **Rental Assistance** (DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP)	129
Federal (Section 8)	1,603



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The New Bedford-Fall River Area is served by the airport and port facilities of New Bedford. In addition, Interstate 195 and State Routes 24 and 140 provide access to the airports, ports, and intermodal facilities of Providence and Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 140 running N-S, and Interstate Route 195 and U.S. Route 6, which link the southern coastal cities in a roughly E-W direction.

### Rail

Conrail provides freight service to New Bedford. Contact number: (617) 783-6222

### Bus

Bonanza Bus Lines offers commuter service to Boston and service to Providence, RI, New York, and Cape Cod.

### Other

The New Bedford Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial Service (PR) facility located 2 miles NW of the city, has 2 asphalt runways 4,997' and 5,000' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

New Bedford Free Public Library  
613 Pleasant Street  
(508) 991-6275

New Bedford Whaling Museum  
18 Johnny Cake Hill  
(508) 997-0046

The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum  
396 County Street  
(508) 997-1401

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)

[The UMass Dartmouth Theatre Company](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

St. Luke's Hospital Of New Bedford

### Long Term Care

Bedford Village N.H. Inc.  
Blair House LTCF of New Bedford  
Hallmark N.H. Of New Bedford  
Hathaway Manor Ext. Care Fac.  
Kristen Beth Nursing Home  
New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home  
Oaks Long Term Care Fac.  
Sacred Heart Nursing Home  
Sassaquin Nursing & Rehab. Center  
Savoy Convalescent Home  
Taber Street Nursing Home

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

Havenwood Rest Home  
Plainview L.T.C. Facility  
Rita's Rest Home  
Rol-Ann Rest Home

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.